

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 25019 030247Z

61

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 095553

O 030115Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN JAMAICA

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 25019

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM BARBIAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, XF, UN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO RABIN

REF: TEL AVIV 0005, TOSEC 250145

(FOR ATTENTION OF S/S WASHINGTON - DISTRIBUTE TO S, P, AND
NEA ONLY)

1. SECRETARY WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT HIS MEETINGS IN JAMAICA
WITH DINITZ HAVE BEEN PURELY SOCIAL, AND THAT YOU WILL BE BRIEFED
ON SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS UPON YOUR RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

2. TEXT OF RABIN LETTER OF DECEMBER 16 FOLLOWS:

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMUNICATION OF
DECEMBER 1. MAY I SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I
AM LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR MEETING IN WASHINGTON
AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH WHEN WE WILL BE ENABLED
TO CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF HOW BEST TO
PROCEED IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR COMMON GOALS.

MEANWHILE, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS SOME THOUGHTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SECTO 25019 030247Z

ON THE FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE TO

WHICH YOU REFER IN YOUR LETTER. I SHARE YOUR
CONVERN OVER THE FAILURE TO GET A SERIOUS
NEGOTIATION STARTED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE
EGYPTION-ISRAEL AGREEMENT. THAT AGREEMENT,
WHICH YOUR DIPLOMACY HELPED SO VITALLY TO BRING
ABOUT, CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A POINT OF DEPARTURE
FOR POTENTIALLY POSITIVE TRENDS WHICH BOTH OF US
YET HOPE TO SEE MATERIALIZE.

IT IS MY CONSIDERED VIEW THAT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS
HAVE NOT UNFOLDED BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT SYRIAN
EFFORT, ASSISTED BY THE SOVIETS, TO MAKE BARREN
THE PURPOSES OF THE AGREEMENT AND, IN FACT, TO
WRECK THEM. MY ASSESSMENT IS THAT SYRIA AND THE
SOVIET UNION ARE PURSUING A COMMON POLITICAL
STRATEGY -- EVIDENTLY AGREED UPON DURING ASSAD'S
OCTOBER VISIT TO MOSCOW -- TO PRESS FOR AN IMPOSED
SETTLEMENT BY SHIFTING THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS
INTO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND AWAY FROM GENEVA.
AS I SEE IT, THE TACTICAL MEANS BEING EMPLOYED ARE
TO MAKE THE COUNCIL, NOT THE PARTITIES, THE FRAMEWORK
OF A SETTLEMENT AND , IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PLO IS TO
BE ELEVATED AS AN INSTRUMENT TO INFLUENCE BOTH THE
NATURE OF THE SETTLEMENT AND THE CONSITION FOR ITS
ACHIEVEMENT. BY ADOPTING THIS GAMBIT IN CONSORT
WITH SYRIA, THE SOVIET UNION IS ABLE TO INTRUDE
ITSELF ACTIVELY INTO THE POLITICAL PROCESS THEREBY
WRESTING FROM THE UNITED STATES THE SINGULAR ROLE
IT HAS PURSUED THUS FAR.

THESE CONSIDERATIONS LEAD ME TO CONCLUDE THAT THE
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF NOVEMBER 30 REPRESENTS
A CONSIDERABLE SYRIAN-SOVIET TACTICAL SUCCESS.
THE REASON IS THAT IT MADE CONDITIONAL THE RENEWAL
OF UNDOF UPON A SPECIAL COUNCIL DEBATE WITH AN AGENDA
GIVING THE PLO PROMINANCE ALONGSIDE U.N. RESOLUTIONS
THAT SUPPORT THE SOVIET-SYRIAN PURPOSES.

I BELIEVE THAT, HAVING WON THAT AGENDA, THEY WILL
WANT TO EMPLOY THE COUNCIL TO UNDERMINE THE TWO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SECTO 25019 030247Z

CENTRAL PILLARS UPON WHICH U.S. - ISRAEL POLICY HAS
LONG BEEN FOUNDED -- THAT NO SETTLEMENT CAN BE
IMPOSED FROM THE OUTSIDE, MEANING THAT PEACE MUST
BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AND THAT A
NEGOTIATED PEACE MUST BE BASED PON SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.

THESE, MR. PRESIDENT, ARE, TO ME, THE BROADER

IMPLICATIONS OF THE FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION AND WHICH LED ME TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE VOTE THAT MADE THIS SESSION POSSIBLE. IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP I CANNOT BUT EXPRESS TO YOU MY FEELING THAT THE FAILURE TO BLOCK THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION HAS SERVED TO ENCOURAGE SYRIA AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY CAN MAKE OF THE COUNCIL A SUBSTITUTE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND UNDERMINE, THEREBY, THE PURPOSES OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE FORTHCOMING COUNCIL SESSION CONSTITUTES A BATTLE OF CONCEPTS IN WHICH THE INTEGRITY OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST. YOU ARE, I KNOW, FAMILIAR WITH OUR POSITION, THAT WE CAN TOLERATE NO MODIFICATION WHATSOEVER IN THE WORDING OF INTERPRETATION OF THOSE RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING THE ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS THAT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A REINTERPRETATION. WERE THIS TO OCCUR, IT WOULD DESTROY THE FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE PEACE PROCESS HAVE BEEN SO LABORIOUSLY CONSTRUCTED OVER THE YEARS.

I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE A FIRM STAND IS IMPERATIVE ON THREE ISSUES:

1) TO THWART THE EFFORT TO TRANSFORM THE COUNCIL INTO AN INSTRUMENT OF NEGOTIATION ON THE ISRAEL-ARAB DISPUTE IN ANY FORM WHATSOEVER,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SECTO 25019 030247Z

2) TO PROTECT FROM CHANGE, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, THE WORDING AND MEANING OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, AND

3) TO ENTERTAIN NO CHANGE OF POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE PLO.

I AM CONVINCED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT HEREIN LIES THE KEY TO NEUTRALIZING THE POLITICAL OFFENSIVE THAT IS DIRECTED AGAINST OUR COMMON POLICIES AND TO GETTING THE POLITICAL PROCESS BACK ON THE ROAD OF NEGOTIATION AND MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE.

IN THIS REGARD I AM GRATIFIED AT THE OPPORTUNITY, AFFORDED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INVITATION TO

MINISTER ALLON, TO CONCERT THE POSITIONS OF OUR
GOVERNMENTS ON THE FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL
DEBATE.

MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF EXTENDING TO YOU
MY WARMEST SEASONAL GREETINGS AND MY BEST WISHES
FOR THE NEW YEAR.

SINCERELY, YITZHAK RABIN PRIME MINISTER".

KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 01/03/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO25019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840109-2344
From: SECRETARY OCHO RIOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760188/aaaadajv.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 5
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO RABIN
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, US, IS, XF, UN, UNSC, (FORD, GERALD R), (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: STATE SS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006